

TRINITY TODAY

OUR CHURCH EXISTS TO **WELCOME** ALL PEOPLE INTO
RELATIONSHIP WITH **JESUS CHRIST** **EQUIP** PEOPLE WITH A
VITAL, LIVING FAITH **SEND** US INTO THE WORLD TO SERVE
IN **JESUS' NAME**

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November 2017

Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." - Luke 4:18-19

Over the past few months local and national news has been paying attention to two issues that so often get swept under the rug:

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bullying and sexual abuse.

Recently a local story about bullying at Simle Middle School has been making national news. It's a familiar one unfortunately. A kid facing vicious, unrelenting bullying from other students, both in person and online. A family appealing to the school to try to get help for their kid. And yet the bullying doesn't stop. Maybe the school and others in authority are trying. Maybe they are doing what they know how to do. And yet the bullying continues, despite the family's best efforts to advocate for their child. And pretty soon the kid and the parents start getting the message: *There's nothing more we can do.*

Bullying is a real problem facing kids in our community and all over our country. Some of the damage might be physical, but the real damage is that it infects kids with the lie that they have no value. You probably know kids in our community who have been affected. I do too. And I believe that on some level, we all realize that we have to do better than we are doing now in stopping bullying.

Meanwhile a renewed focus on sexual abuse began a few weeks ago in response to a NYT article that detailed numerous allegations of sexual abuse against a famous Hollywood producer named Harvey Weinstein and the refusal of the film industry to do anything about it. Following this article dozens of actresses (and actors) have come forward with similar stories of sexual abuse . and again the refusal of the film industry to do anything about it.

Inspired by these revelations, countless folks are bravely coming forward with their own stories of sexual abuse. Men and women are both affected, but one must say that women and girls often bear the brunt of this sad problem. On social media people are posting *me too+* as a way of expressing that they too have been victims of sexual harassment or sexual assault. Over the past few days my Facebook feed has been full of friends , (both men and women but especially women), posting *me too+*. Clearly for many folks, (and especially women and girls), sexual abuse is a sadly familiar part of life.

In a way, stories of bullying are very similar to the stories of sexual abuse in the film industry: Rampant abuse. A system that often (but not always) either feels it can't or won't deal with the problem. And victims who fear the stigmatization and/or the negative repercussions of reporting.

And all too often, victims who do report the abovementioned abuses hear things like: *There's nothing we can do -or- I don't believe you -or- Just deal with it and stay silent. Reporting might cost you.*

Well why am I bringing up these sad issues in a church newsletter? Because dealing with sad issues is part of the church's calling and because these problems are very real in our community. And as Christians, and really just as decent human beings, it is our job to protect and bring help to those who are being hurt.

The way we change this is by casting light on these dark situations. It's by listening to people who report these abuses. It's by using whatever power we have to protect and stick up for people who are being hurt. It's by confronting situations like bullying until they're fixed rather than giving into the *there's nothing we can do+* mentality. *We can* do more to prevent these abuses and stand by victims.

If you have been hurt in these ways, please know that: 1) God loves you deeply 2) It's not your fault, 3) Tell your story to a trusted, safe, loved one who will listen and can give you good advice, 4) If it is something that needs to be reported, keep on reporting the problem until you get a real response. 5) If your reporting is not taken seriously, find allies (family, friends, teachers, law enforcement, counselors, church people) to help you get a response. 6) Please know that your Church and pastors would be honored to be your allies if you need one.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Paul

* *Trinity is committed to creating a safe, bully-free environment for our whole community. If ever you witness bullying or harassment at Trinity, please report such an incident to church staff.*

Musical Moments

Joanne Swonger · swonger@trinitybismarck.com
Director of Music and Worship

88th Handel's Messiah at Trinity Lutheran Sunday, December 3rd at 7:30 PM

Musicians in the Bismarck-Mandan area began an incredible tradition in 1930 by coming together to perform Handel's Messiah for our community. That wonderful tradition continues as we begin rehearsals for the 88th annual performance on Sunday, December 3rd at 7:30 PM.

Our director, Andrew Miller, brings a great deal of joy, and energy to the Director's podium and we are deeply appreciative of the musical gifts and passionate leadership he shares in this role!

Weekly rehearsals are Sundays from 4:00 - 6:00 PM in Trinity's sanctuary. Copies of the musical score are available for check out if you do not have your own copy. ***If you love to sing, you are invited and encouraged to join us!***

Reception Volunteers Needed

The reception following the Messiah is a festive way to come together as community and celebrate the wondrous message of our Lord's birth! We are beginning to make plans for this year's reception and you are invited to join in the fun. Volunteer by emailing Joanne Swonger or by signing up in the lobby to:

- ◆ **Bake and share 2-3 dozen cookies or bars.**
- ◆ **Serve a shift on a Reception Hospitality team from 7:30-10 PM (set up and serving) or 8:30-10:00 PM (serving and cleanup).** We need at least three people for each shift.

Engage ... Invest ... Evolve!

Sunday Worship Projectionists and 10:30 Communion Servers are greatly needed at present. Please email Joanne in regard to your interest, questions, and training! These are wonderful ways to share your time with your congregation!

Handbell Choir begins practice on Wednesday, November 1st at 5:30 PM in the Music Room! We want to grow with new ringers! Middle school and High school aged ringers are welcome!

Children & Youth

Gracia Johnson · gjohnson@trinitybismarck.com
Youth, Family Life, and Christian Education Coordinator



Communion option for younger children

In recent decades, Trinity has reserved communion for children of the age of 5th grade and older. Last year, pastors and church council opened up a way for children younger than 5th grade to receive communion, provided they have parental permission. All children will still be part of our 5th grade class that delves deeper into communion. Our new policy is that parents may decide when the time is right for their child to receive communion, and so whether you decide to commune your child before or after 5th grade, we trust that communion will continue to be a meaningful experience for all.

The new class, Preparing your child for First Communion, will be offered on Wednesday, Nov. 1 from 7:15 to 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Room or Sunday, Nov. 5 from 9:30 to 10:20 a.m. in the Conference Room. Parents who would like to prepare their younger child to receive first communion are invited to attend a class which will give them guidance on communion basics and how to discuss communion with their children. Families will receive a free copy of a place for You+a story book that can help your child learn about the story of Jesus and explore the meaning of communion.

Lunch @ First

A free meal for youth in grades 9-12 served at First Lutheran Church (across from BHS). Youth from all schools are invited. Lunch is served Wednesdays from 11:00 to 1:10. Meals are provided by 6 ELCA churches in Bismarck including Trinity.

Houston 2018 Update



Trinity has 23 youth and 5 adults going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston this summer! What a blessing!! To make this happen we need your help. Look for fundraisers throughout this school year or consider making a donation and help support Trinity Youth!

Trinity Youth will be selling Grandma's Kuchen and it will arrive in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Watch for a table in the lobby and consider placing an order.

Theo Art Event at Trinity

Sunday, November 19

2 to 4 pm

Watch for more info!



The Banquet

Karla Eisenbeisz · Sadowsky@trinitybismarck.com

Banquet Director



The Banquet is very pleased to announce that United Way has approved \$35,000 in grant monies to The Banquet to be used for our Tuesday meals. We are still looking for sponsors to host the Tuesday nights, so please tell everyone you know to give me a call.

We are now currently serving 800-900 meals per week and we are looking for regular volunteer coordinators and security. Community volunteer involvement is unbelievably generous and the community need is tremendous! The Banquet would not exist without volunteers. If you feel this is something you could fit into your schedule once a month, please contact me at 202-4749.

If you are interested in hosting a Thursday meal and your business or church can't come up with the 30 volunteers, your group can be combined with other small groups. We don't want anyone or any group to pass up the opportunity to serve. You can get more information on our website www.bismarckbanquet.com.

Rummage Sale

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the fall Rummage Sale by working, contributing items, or purchasing items.

Total proceeds were \$3,103.00 and go to the youth.



Pastoral Ministries

Baptisms:

Carter Allan Mork
LLeighton Ryan Smith
LDevyn Maelee Peder-
sen

Your gifts

Julie Schaffner · Schaffner@trinitybismarck.com Financial Director

September 2017

	Month Actual	Year-to-date Actual
Income	\$ 60,037.06	\$499,686.02
Expenses	\$ 68,286.71	\$557,852.92
Income less expenses	\$ (8,249.65)	\$ (58,166.90)

The \$60,037.06 income for the month reflects an \$10,000 transfer from Trinity's Contingency Restricted Account to aid in offsetting the monthly and year-to-date deficit.

Electronic Giving - Trinity offers the option of Electronic Contributions as a simple way to contribute. This would allow you the freedom from worry or concern whether you are out of town, on vacation or wondering how to budget your contributions. Please stop by the office to fill out the form.

Stephen Ministry



**I Can Talk to My
Friends...**

If you have friends you turn to when you need to discuss a concern or just "unload," and if these friends really listen and give you the support, encouragement, or guidance you need, you are truly blessed. If you consistently discuss your concerns with the same friends every time, however, you probably can predict what kind of response you will get. This may or not be helpful over time.

Sometimes each of us can benefit by talking with someone who doesn't know the entire history of our lives, or of the issue we are continuing to struggle with. Someone who doesn't know us so well may be able to offer a fresh perspective, to ask questions our friends haven't asked, and challenge us to look at the issue in a new way. Would this be helpful to you?

A Stephen Minister enters a relationship with you knowing only what you choose to tell him or her. This means your Stephen Minister will listen very carefully to discern what is really most important to you. As your Stephen Minister reflects what you have said (and what he/she understood you to say), or asks questions to clarify what you have said, you might see your situation in a new light . which might also help you identify some new way you can deal with your concern. Would this be helpful to you?

If you would like the support and listening ear of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of the pastors, to a Stephen Leader (Karen Botine, Margaret Fiechtner), or fill out the green Confidential Care Request card in the pew rack and drop it in the Confidential Care box at the Welcome desk in the lobby. Six Stephen Ministers are ready and waiting to walk with, comfort, and support you.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

502 NORTH 4TH STREET
BISMARCK, ND 58501
PASTOR STEVE SATHRE
PASTOR PAUL SCHICK

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S.
BISMARCK, ND
POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 419

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Women's Ministries



Bible Study leaders

The leaders meet with a pastor the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. If you plan to attend, please call Jan in the church office prior to that day.

Thanksgiving

Please join us for worship on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30 p.m., as we uplift grateful hearts to the One who created us, loves us, and blesses us with all good gifts.

A Pie Social will follow worship. Please bring your pie to the Community Center prior to worship.



Quilts and School Kits

The Quilters sent 223 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Great job ladies!

Thank you to all who donated items for the School Kits. 54 kits were sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you also to the Confirmation Small Group for helping assemble and box up the kits, and special thanks to Dale Fleck for taking the kits and quilts to Midwest Motor Express.

The Quilters sent 254 quilts to Lutheran World Relief

Beer and Hymns

November 6 7-9 PM

Join us the first Monday of November for a night of hymn singing, beverages, and fun!

These events take place at the Harvest Brazilian Grill in Mandan, (308 W Main St). All persons 21 and over are welcome!

Trust Fund Spotlight



Welcome...

The Trust Fund was created to enhance the work of the Church. This means that the Trust Fund is one of the ways in which Trinity carries out its mission to Welcome, Equip, and Send. How do we WELCOME?

People are the best way to WELCOME others into relationship with Jesus Christ. It's one of the reasons greeters and ushers are stationed at the entrances to the worship space. But the building itself can be welcoming, and that's where the Trust Fund can help. Grants from the Trust Fund have supported the addition of the screens and projection system, as well as improvements to the sound system in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. For many worshipers, being able to see and hear more clearly makes worship a more welcoming experience. Now, as Trinity tests several more accessible seating options, the Trust Fund may be asked to help fund the cost of these changes. Providing a place to sit that fits each person physically can be another way to WELCOME others to Trinity.

The WELCOME can extend beyond the walls of Trinity, too. Grants from the Trust Fund help pay the costs to ship the many quilts created by Trinity's quilters. According to a representative of Lutheran World Relief, recipients of these quilts are often surprised (as well as grateful) to hear that people they don't know, in a church they've never seen, care enough to send them a quilt for warmth and comfort. Could this message be a first step in welcoming someone into a relationship with Jesus Christ? I like to think so.

If you have questions about WELCOMING others through a gift or bequest to Trinity's Trust Fund or Endowment Fund, talk to a Trust Fund Committee member: Richard Bjornson, Karen Botine, Richard Hanson, Dwight Offerman, or Susan Weiand.

Christian Education for Adults

Sundays @ 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall

Little Book Big Ideas – Exploring Luther's Small Catechism.

Hundreds of years ago, Luther wrote the small catechism to instruct young and old alike in the basics of Christian faith. Despite its age this remarkable book continues to offer profound insights into what it means to be Christian. Join us in this series as we learn and join in conversation around what Luther called his little book. Series continues in November.